



General Manager's Office
University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny
South/South West Hospital Group
Email: uhwpg@hse.ie

10th April 2019

Ms Mary Butler TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 14409 - To ask the Minister for Health his plans to deal with the outpatient respiratory medicine waiting list at University Hospital Waterford of which 604 are waiting in excess of 18 months

Dear Deputy Butler

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

University Hospital Waterford currently has 2 Consultant Respiratory Physicians who also operate a weekly Rapid Access Lung Cancer clinic. Respiratory medicine involves a significant cohort of chronic respiratory illnesses.

A pathway forward with respiratory disease is one which UHW and Primary Care are currently jointly working on and which would have Consultant selected patients seen in Primary Care setting by an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Physiotherapist. A joint UHW acute and SEHC community submission for early supported discharge for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is currently being prepared to bid for Slaintecare funding for both Waterford and Dungarvan Primary Care Centres sites.

These measures would improve the overall management of chronic respiratory disease and create some additional clinic capacity in the acute hospital respiratory clinics.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Rothwell
General Manager
University Hospital Waterford
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital